

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05027 281601Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----126523 281606Z /44  
O 281544Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9424  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 05027

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2  
TAGS: MOPS, PINR, LE, SY  
SUBJECT: LEBANON'S SYRIAN PRESENCE

REF: BEIRUT 4991

1. AS I POINTED OUT IN MY COMMENT ON THE DAO'S REPORT OF KHADDAM'S REMARKS, HE IS A MAN WHO LIKES TO EXAGGERATE FOR EFFECT. KHADDAM IS NOT A MILITARY ANALYST BUT A FRUSTRATED LAWYER. I DOUBT IF HE HAS ANY IDEA OF THE MILITARY COMPLEXITIES INVOLVED IN CITY FIGHTING AND HE PROBABLY DOESN'T CARE. HE CERTAINLY DOESN'T EXPECT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY ON COMMENTS HE GLIBLY USES TO MAKE A DEBATING POINT IN PRIVATE.

2. KHADDAM DOESN'T MAKE THE DECISIONS ON LEBANON AND PARTICULARLY DOES NOT MAKE MILITARY DECISIONS. I AM CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD AND HIS GENERAL STAFF ARE WELL-AWARE OF THE CASUALTIES AND DIFFICULTIES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN OVERCOMING CHRISTIAN RESISTANCE IN THE CENTER OF BEIRUT. IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT SYRIANS HAVE AVOIDED HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHTING AND HAVE OVERWHELMINGLY PREFERRED TO USE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05027 281601Z

TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR ENDS. IF THE SYRIAN GENERAL STAFF DOESN'T ALREADY KNOW WHAT THE DIFFICULTIES ARE IN CENTRAL BEIRUT FIGHTING--WHICH I BELIEVE THEY MOST CERTAINLY DO-- THEN THEY SHOW A DETERMINED LACK OF ABILITY TO LEARN FROM THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES. IN ANY CASE, THEY WOULD SUSPECT OUR MOTIVES IN PRESENTING SUCH AN ASSESSMENT, PARTICULARLY IF IT STRESSED THE DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED.

SEELYE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DAMASC05027  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X2  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780351-0172  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780818/aaaaapej.tel  
**Line Count:** 63  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 9820f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 4991  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1605422  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANON'S SYRIAN PRESENCE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PINR, LE, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9820f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014